

**WILLIE PELOTE: FRIEND OF THE  
LABOR COUNCIL AWARD**

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2000*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, today I recognize Willie Pelote, as he is honored by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO, at its 12th annual Worker's Memorial dinner with its Friend of the Labor Council Award.

As the California Political and Legislative Director of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Willie oversees statewide political and legislative affairs for the nation's largest union of public employees and health care workers. He is responsible for developing and implementing the union's political strategy for campaigns at all levels of public office.

Through his work at AFSCME, Willie has been a strong supporter of and partner with the Labor Council. Willie helped AFSCME local unions in San Diego build strong member education and involvement programs, and he supported the development of the very successful Labor to Neighbor Program.

Willie's leadership has helped advance labor priorities across the state, as well as locally and for that he deserves our highest praise and admiration. My congratulations go to Willie Pelote for these significant contributions. I believe him to be highly deserving of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO Friend of the Labor Council Award.

**COMPREHENSIVE BUDGET  
PROCESS REFORM ACT OF 1999**

SPEECH OF

**HON. WALTER B. JONES**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 16, 2000*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 853) to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide for joint resolutions on the budget, reserve funds for emergency spending, strengthened enforcement of budgetary decisions, increased accountability for Federal spending, accrual budgeting for Federal insurance programs, mitigation of the bias in the budget process toward higher spending, modifications in paygo requirements when there is an on-budget surplus, and for other purposes:

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Comprehensive Budget Process Reform Act and I thank Congressman NUSSLE for bringing this important budgetary reform to the floor.

I also came to the floor this afternoon in support of an Amendment that my colleagues, Representatives DREIER, LUTHER, REGULA, and HALL will be debating shortly that would provide for a two-year federal budget process.

Mr. Chairman, like many of my friends on both sides of the aisle, I served in the state legislature before my election to the House in 1994. The North Carolina General Assembly, like many other states, operates under a two-year, biennial budget process.

That is what brings me to the floor today. Like many of my colleagues, I am frustrated with the annual budget system.

We spend months of every year debating the same issues. That leaves very little time for Members to explore many of the issues that directly affect the citizens of this nation.

A biennial budget would allow Members to devote the first session of any Congress to the budget resolution and appropriations decisions. The second session would be dedicated to program oversight in order to help eliminate wasteful government spending.

This process would provide Congress time to better address issues of important national interest, like the state of our military readiness, how to protect our nation's seniors and improve the current health care system, and how to best provide an effective safety net for our nation's farmers.

A biennial budget would also allow Congress to better manage unforeseen emergency budget situations that face our nation like the forest fires New Mexico is currently battling, or the hurricanes that have devastated North Carolina's coastline for the last few years.

When hurricanes have hit North Carolina, the General Assembly has been able to successfully help the State meet its unmet needs without creating undue hardship on the State or on our communities.

Mr. Chairman, Congress has a constitutional responsibility to oversee government spending and to improve the way government works. When we dedicate such a significant amount of time each year to appropriate funds for government programs, we lose out on needed opportunities to evaluate the performance of those programs and make necessary changes. A biennial budget would allow a full year of oversight to determine what is working and what is not so that the appropriations process can move more smoothly and the government can run more efficiently and effectively.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support the Comprehensive Budget Process reform. I also hope my colleagues will join me in voting for the biennial budget amendment to ensure American taxpayer dollars are being spent wisely.

**HONORING TOPSFIELD,  
MASSACHUSETTS**

**HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2000*

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, Topsfield, Massachusetts is observing a year-long celebration of the 350th anniversary of its founding as a town by the General Court of the Commonwealth in 1650. The observance will not only reflect upon the town's proud history, but will look with optimism toward the future.

When Governor John Winthrop arrived in Salem harbor in 1630, Masconomet, the sagamore of the Agawam tribe, who lived in the Topsfield area, welcomed him. The regional high school is named for Masconomet, who always lived peacefully with his new neighbors.

The early settlers of Topsfield, named after Toppesfield, England, were mostly farmers. But as British encroachment on their liberty through passage of various taxes escalated through the late 1600s and the 1700s, they became more and more concerned about de-

fending against attack. On April 19, 1775, 110 of Topsfield's citizenry in two companies joined with other towns in a march to Lexington and Concord to fight the redcoats at the very beginning of the Revolutionary War. Topsfield citizens have served with distinction in every war since.

While the town's character has changed through the years from farming to light manufacture and small business, it has retained its rural character. It is home each autumn to the Topsfield Fair, the Nation's oldest agricultural exposition. Its Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary is the largest sanctuary in the Massachusetts Audubon system.

A number of famous people have called Topsfield home. The Stanley family of the Stanley Steamer automobile arrived in 1659 and lived in the town until 1778. The ancestors of two leaders of the Mormon Church, Joseph Smith, its founder, and Brigham Young, its second president, were near neighbors in Topsfield.

Today, Mr. Speaker, Topsfield stands at the beginning of this new century looking optimistically toward a bright future while celebrating its long and proud heritage. A time capsule is being assembled that will include essays by fourth graders about what life was like in the year 2000, as well as recollections of seniors about the century just past. To those residents of Topsfield in the year 2100, as well as to the town's current citizens, may I add my sincere congratulations and best wishes.

**HONORING ST. FRANCIS PRAYER  
CENTER**

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2000*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak on behalf of a group of people who have made the community a truly joyous place to live. On Saturday, May 20, the St. Francis Prayer Center in Flint, Michigan, will celebrate their 25th Anniversary.

For many years, Father Phil Schmitter and Sister Joanne Chiaverini have worked diligently to do the Lord's work throughout the Flint community. Their selfless nature is tremendous and the compassion they show is indescribable. When creating the St. Francis Prayer Center in 1975, they were committed to simple goals: they wanted a central location where even the poor could walk, where they could provide guidance and promote spirituality regardless of denomination, and work to help bridge the gap between racial and religious lines. As a lifelong Flint resident, I am happy to say that their efforts have indeed improved understanding, acceptance, and genuine positive regard within the city of Flint, and the surrounding communities. They have provided a resource that we all can be very proud of. They have helped people come closer to God and to one another.

Also, the accomplishments of St. Francis would not be as strong if not for the work of the members of the Prayer Center Board and the many volunteers who are always there to lend a helping hand. These people also give much of themselves to further the impact that the center makes.

Mr. Speaker, our community would not be the same without the presence of Father Phil